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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/510,077	02/22/2000	Michael J. Bonavita	97-2-718	2751

7590 11/29/2001

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, PHUONGCHI T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 11/29/2001

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>		<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/510,077		BONAVITA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>		<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Phuongchi T Nguyen		2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4 and 5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____   |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

1. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claim 3, line 1-2, "electrical contact stops" are not disclosed in the specification.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1 and 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Denlinger et al (US5071369).

In regards to claim 1, Denlinger et al discloses a miniature electrical connector comprising an electrically insulting housing (14) having a front end (C) and a rear end (D) (see figure 4) displaced along a longitudinal axis; an electrical contact receiving aperture (24) in the housing (14) arrayed parallel to the longitudinal axis; a displaceable locking tongue (86) in the electrical contact receiving aperture (24); a flexible gasket (20) positioned at the rear end (D) of the housing (14), the flexible gasket (20) having a contact receiving gasket aperture (A); a gasket retainer (22) affixed to the rear end (D) of the housing (14), the gasket retainer (22) having an electrical contact receiving aperture (B) therein, the gasket retainer electrical contact receiving aperture (B) having a given cross-sectional oneway footprint (B); an electrical contact (18) positioned in the housing aperture (24), the electrical contact (18) inserted through the given

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cross-sectional one-way footprint ( B), whereby only a single orientation of the contact (18) in the gasket retainer electrical contact receiving aperture (B) is permitted, the contact (18) being retained in the electrical contact receiving aperture (24) by the locking tongue (86) when the contact (18) is fully inserted therein (see figure 4); and a displaceable locking tongue disabler (12) associated with the front end (see Attachment 1).

In regards to claim 3, Denlinger et al discloses the miniature electrical connector wherein the front end (C ) is provided with stops (38) (see figure 5).

In regards to claim 4, Denlinger et al discloses the miniature electrical connector wherein the electrical contact (18) is a female contact having a hollow, male contact receiving portion of a given cross-sectional area (M) and a wire receiving portion (H, crimping part of on 18) spaced therefrom, the wire receiving portion (H, crimping part of 18) having a second cross-sectional area that is smaller than the given cross-sectional area (adjacent 24) (see Attachment 1).

In regards to claim 5, in addition to claim 1, electrical contact (18) having the given cross-sectional one-way footprint (see figure 5) and at least a portion of its longitudinal length "L1" sufficient to retain engagement with the contact receiving entrance (24) until the contact (18) enters the electrical contact receiving aperture (24) in the insulating housing (14).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Denlinger et al (US5071369) in view of Shinozaki (US6244897B1).

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Denlinger et al discloses the miniature electrical connector wherein the gasket retainer (22) has a plurality of electrical receiving apertures (B) (see Attachment 1). Denlinger lacks the apertures having the given cross-sectional one-way footprints oriented  $180^\circ$  from others of the apertures. However, Shinozaki teaches the miniature electrical connector having at least some of the apertures (23) having the given cross-sectional one-way footprints oriented  $180^\circ$  from others of the apertures (23) (see figure 5). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to modify the miniature electrical connector of Denlinger by providing the apertures having the given cross-sectional one-way footprints oriented  $180^\circ$  from others of the apertures for ease alignment the terminals into the receive ring apertures. The term "the apertures having the given cross-sectional one-way footprints oriented  $180^\circ$  from others of the apertures" is so broadly defined. Therefore, Denlinger et al can read on the claim language.

9. Saito (US5931699) is cited to show in the miniature electrical connector having a female contact having a hollow, male contact receiving portion of a given cross-sectional area and a wire receiving portion spaced therefrom, the wire receiving portion having a second cross-sectional area that is smaller than the given cross-sectional area.

10. Shinozaki (US6250962) is cited to show a contact receiving entrance having a given cross-sectional, one-way footprint and having a given length "L" along said longitudinal axis (see figure 9).

### *Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuongchi T Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-0729. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:00AM to

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4:30PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7723 for regular communications and (703) 305-7723 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-7722.

November 12, 2001

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vodace", is written on the right side of the page.

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